

Hockey

Hockey stalwart's service honoured

Even though Masterton's Bill Peters was recently awarded Hockey New Zealand's Gold Service Award for 25 years' service to the sport, his contribution to hockey in the Wairarapa extends much longer.

Wairarapa Hockey's executive officer Kelly Govan said Mr Peters' contribution to the sport in the region had been significant and she couldn't think of anyone who was more deserving of the award.

"The award recognises 25 years but Bill has been involved for 50 years as a player, coach, manager and a champion for the development of the sport in the Wairarapa," said Ms Govan after he was presented the award at New Zealand Hockey's annual general meeting in Wellington earlier this month. "He has made such a positive impact on the sport in the region and is genuinely deserving of this award." Ms Govan said Mr Peters was a teacher before he retired and ran and coached hockey at Lansdowne for more than 40 years and in 1957, with Glad Cole, established the Masterton Primary Girls Hockey Association. Attempts to enter the New Zealand Primary Schoolgirls Tournament began in 1965, but it took until 1970 for the Wairarapa team to be given a place, with Mr Peters given much of the credit.



Bill Peters

Mr Peters began his association with New Zealand Hockey in 1970, when in partnership with Mrs Cole, he took on the role of coaching and managing that team to go to tournament which eventually became known as the Collier Trophy – a prestigious event still popular today. Their team won the event in 1978, 1981 and 1985, and rarely finishing outside the top three. Also between 1986 and 1989 Mr Peters coached the U13 Rawleigh Team and the U15 Girls. Ms Govan said in 1998 Mr

Peters took on the role of tournament controller at all secondary school and representative tournaments held in the Wairarapa. This included the National U15 Boys Tournament in 1999 and also the Rankin Cup in 2002. He continued this role for Hockey Wairarapa until 2007, and more amazingly his involvement with hockey has continued this season, being the coach of the St Patrick's eight-a-side team.

Ms Govan said Mr Peters is an honoured and respected member of the Wairarapa hockey community, known by both young and old.

"Hockey Wairarapa would like to congratulate Bill on this fantastic achievement and thank him for the countless hours he has dedicated to the development of hockey in our region," she said.